

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 10/3/2024 (7 – 7:30 PM)

Attendees (5): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Bob Strunk, Suzanne Cross, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: As Joan Markoe was away, there was no Treasurer's report for September. It will be included in the next meeting.

Calendar of Events:

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| October Clean-up | Saturday 10/12/2024 10 AM | Monthly Clean-up |
| Howl-O-Ween Event | Saturday 10/26/2024 11 AM (Rain Date: Sunday 10/27) | Dog Costume Event Registration starts at 10:30 AM |
| November Meeting | Thursday 11/7/2024 7 PM | Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli |
| November Clean-up | Saturday 11/9/2024 10 AM | "Love Your Park" Clean-up |
| December Meeting | Thursday 12/5/2024 7 PM | Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli and Baldwin Birthday Celebration |
| December Clean-up | Saturday 12/14/2024 10 AM | Monthly Clean-up |

October Clean-up: The clean-up on Saturday 10/12 will focus on the Crabapples and Sweet Gum balls in preparation for Howl-O-Ween. Nancy van Arkel will pick up supplies for next month's November "Love Your Park" Clean-up on 11/9.

Parkway Signs: Sandy Owens reported that Baldwin Park will be added to the list of sites on the Parkway signs located at 19th & Vine Streets and at 19th & Callowhill Streets. They should appear by the end of October. The good news is that they will be added at no cost to us.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Event: Parks & Recreation issued the park permit for this event which is scheduled for Saturday 10/26 from 11 AM to Noon, with a rain date of Sunday 10/27. Beginning at 10:30 AM, dog owners will be required to register their dogs as being up to date with their shots. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Co-Chairs, Jan Roberts and Grace Hanrahan have taken care of most of the preparations in September. Based on past years, we expect about 100 dogs and about 150 people to attend.

Website News: Joe Walsh added an October history article of potential Halloween interest at:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/thomas-eldridge>

Here is a summary of the highlights which may pique your curiosity.

Thomas E. Eldridge is now a little-known resident of the Baldwin Park neighborhood, but he was a regular subject in local and regional newspapers from 1903 until his death in 1931.

Among these news accounts about him were the following:

- An attempt to have his ex-wife blown up.
- An attempt to resurrect a corpse that was several days dead.
- An attempt to turn a black man white using radiation.

- A conviction for practicing medicine without a license.
- Several successful balloon flights setting local altitude and distance records, including at least one flight with a parachute jump.
- Being the first passenger in a plane over Philadelphia, the plane piloted by the notorious Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, in the same Wright brothers' plane now hanging in the Franklin Institute.
- Having prominent Philadelphians join him on balloon flights, including guests with names like Strawbridge

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.